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Ravalli County Commissioners

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July 27, 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South Fourth Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my worry about the proposal from the Ravalli County Road and Bridge Dept. to re-open the Lost Horse Quarry.

Every year for the last 10 or so years I have visited the areas immediately to the east and west of the quarry for rock climbing. I have climbed throughout Montana, the United States, and Europe and the cliffs at Lost Horse are among my very favorites. Not only is the climbing exceptional, but the area is also special due to its wild and natural character.

I believe that re-opening the quarry would irrevocably damage this unique climbing area. The climbs nearest to the quarry to the east would certainly be impacted, but also the special character and quality of the climbing would be lost. Climbing areas like Lost Horse are few and far between and to damage it would be quite a tragedy. Also, being a relatively low altitude climbing spot in the valley, the cliffs at Lost Horse offer year round climbing on days when the conditions are right. Closing the cliffs for even part of the year would impact climbers.

I sincerely hope that the Ravalli County Road and Bridge Department can find an alternative source for their road fill and gravel which doesn't ruin one of Montana's special recreational opportunities.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this issue (512-983-7166).

Thank you,

Eric Chesebro

